



CDHH e-Newsletter

Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

March 10, 2007

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The entry way into our site

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Launching pad to lots of information about various topics relating to deafness and hearing loss

About CDHH



First Message from Your New Executive Director

Upon arriving after five grueling days of journey from Washington D.C. to Boise with my wife and three small children I beheld a majestic view of snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains. I said to myself, "We are home." I am glad to be able to plant my feet on Idaho soil once again. Idaho had been my home since 1974 until my high school graduation in 1992. To be able to return after 16 years of exile is sweet.

I am excited and honored to be your Executive Director for Idaho Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. I have been officially on the job since January 14 2008. I have been getting myself settled in, trying to organize things in a way that makes sense to me. The work here so far is interesting, challenging, and stimulating.

My Administrative Assistant, Cindy Schreiner, has been of invaluable assistance in helping me with the new transition. I want to take this opportunity to commend her for doing an excellent job of holding the place together while still doing her own office duties during the months since the departure of the last Director.

While I am on the subject of appreciation, I want to acknowledge the work and contributions made by the former Executive Director, Wes Maynard for the betterment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. During his two years tenure as a director, Idaho saw an improvement in public awareness on the education for the deaf, creation of new deaf-related laws and resolutions such as SCR 102 (ASL as a Foreign Language), SCR 103 (Deaf/HH Child's Bill of Rights, and Title 33 Chapter 13 (Educational Interpreter Act), and more. These are huge milestones for deaf and hard of hearing community in Idaho. These changes had shifted new direction for the society at large to follow. We want to thank Wes for all of his work. I want to wish him well with his new career endeavors.

I am committed to helping the deaf and hard of hearing community to continue to confront the challenges that lie ahead and continue to building a better Idaho that will be here for deaf and hard of hearing generations to come. The challenges are great. The education issues for the deaf and hard of hearing in the past couple years was perhaps one of the most difficult in Idaho's deaf history and no one disagrees that there are more challenges ahead in a world that is rapidly changing and that we will have to make difficult choices. I

Information about the Council, including board members, staff, statute, and bylaws

Contact Us

www.cdhh.idaho.gov

208-334-0879 vp/v

208-334-0803 tty

believe that together, we will succeed.

I want to be very clear about one of my core values. Since the first day after my college graduation, my life is about service and improving the lives of deaf people. They are the reason I wake up excited each morning, jump out of bed, and go to work. The members of the deaf and hard of hearing community are the core- the center of CDHH's mission. I am committed to improving quality of life for the deaf and hard of hearing and it is CDHH's #1 job.

Together, we are going to improve the education, human rights, services, and last but not least, quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing persons in Idaho. I invite each of you to join me and support CDHH. CDHH is committed to working together to meet the challenges ahead. Maybe you have a great idea to help improve the quality of life in Idaho. I invite you to send me your ideas for making Idaho one of the most deaf-friendly states in America. CDHH cannot do it alone without you. Please send your great ideas to snows2@dhw.idaho.gov.

Please feel free to stop by at our office or at any of our functions.

Best,

Steven Snow
Executive Director

Demonstration and Loan Centers Receive New Devices

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing announces new equipment at the demonstration and loan centers throughout the state. Centers located in Boise, Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Moscow, Coeur D'Alene, Twin Falls and Caldwell will be receiving a new piece of equipment to lend/demonstrate. These devices will be available through the subsidy program administered by United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho. Please visit our website at www.cdhh.idaho.gov to locate the center nearest you.

Portable Baby Monitor



This portable baby monitor has the following features. Completely wireless system, 450' range, rechargeable parent's unit and camera. No annoying antenna on parent's unit, portable video and sound monitor, large 1.8" color TFT LCD screen on parent's unit. Uses AA alkaline or rechargeable batteries (6 rechargeable batteries included). Needs 12 AA

batteries for completely portable use (not included). Infrared night vision. View your baby on your TV through A/V outputs. Works with up to 4 cameras total. Optional voice activation of video. 280 degree rotating camera. Optional power-save mode, battery backup for camera. Parent's unit has brightness control, on/off volume, 4 channel selection, A/V output plug, power button, charging LED indication, large LCD. Wall mountable camera monitor base unit, belt attachment on the parent's unit. 1 year limited manufacturer's warranty. Sleek, compact design with rounded edges, silver with blue trim.

Ameriphone Alertmaster AM 6000 With Baby Monitor



Alertmaster AM-6000 alerts you to all the activities around your home – telephone ringing, doorbell, sounding of alarm clock, baby crying, activation of any audio alarm devices and even someone entering your home unexpectedly. It flashes a lamp and shakes your bed to notify you, day and night. It is totally wireless. Includes the console, a wireless telephone with doorbell and bed shaker. It works with all the optional accessories.

Shake Up Smoke Detector Kit



Rest easy with the Shake Up Smoke Detector Kit on duty. This wireless, single function kit detects smoke, then transmit a signal within a 100-foot radius, alerting the user by a vibrator or strobe. The kit includes a 6" audible 9-volt battery operated smoke detector that attaches to wall or ceiling, and a 3" x 5" Receiver Unit that attaches to the wall or may be placed on a night stand. Receiver Unit plugs into standard electrical outlet and activates bed vibrator or strobe.

[Demonstration and Loan Updates](#)



United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho interfaces with people from all parts of Idaho to help them with their needs to improve communications. It is rewarding to work with several individuals and families each month who are successful in finding the

right equipment to assist them in communicating with friends, family and business associates. On a monthly basis we have an average of 60 individuals who explore the possibility of receiving assistance from the subsidy program. About 31 of them qualify and actually order a piece of equipment. In addition, there is an average of 11 who come to United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho to see what is available and to try some equipment to see if it meets their needs. Approximately 9 people call on a monthly basis. Over a year's period of time the number of people helped is quite significant. Many of the clients have very little knowledge or understanding of the resources available to them. It is helpful that UCP has several different types of equipment that can viewed and tried to make sure it meets their needs.

Lynn R. Cundick
United Cerebral Palsy of Idaho
Executive Director

Status of Deaf/HH Education Reform

One of the priorities of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is to continue working for deaf education reform. Historically, over the last year there have been several items to report. CDHH will keep you posted on all events and circumstances involving deaf education reform. The following is what has transpired over the last few months:

September 2007:	Mike Rush, Ph.D. becomes Interim Executive Director of the State Board of Education.
December 2007:	Aylee Schaefer assumes responsibilities for Deaf Education reform.
February 2008:	Mike Rush and Aylee Schaefer meet with the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at quarterly board meeting.
March 2008:	Summarative report to be completed in near future.
DATE TBA:	Summit of Deaf/HH and Blind/VI education reform to take place.

To keep up-to-date on the SBOE's transition process and timelines, visit their Web site: <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/DeafEd/transition.asp>.

Remembering Dorothy Shipman

December 21, 1918 – November 17, 2007

Dorothy Shipman, longtime Council member and advocate for services for the

hard of hearing passed away Saturday, November 17, 2007 at a local care facility. Dorothy was a member and President of the Idaho chapter of Self Help for the Hard of Hearing; and member of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for 2 terms. She also created the Idaho chapter of the Association of Late Deafened adults. Dorothy volunteered with the Council on many special projects before, during and after her term as a member of the Council. Dorothy was a petite woman who made an impact with her presence. She will be missed by those who knew her.

Words from Educational Interpreter Training Coordinator

The Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind (ISDB) continues to support working educational interpreters/transliterators in the PreK-12 setting. The Idaho Educational Interpreter Act comes into effect on July 1, 2009 and ISDB is providing training opportunities and support to help educational interpreters/transliterators meet the minimum standard.

My name is Joelynn B. Warr and I am the Educational Interpreter Training Coordinator for ISDB. I have had the opportunity to travel to three regions in the state and meet face to face with educational interpreters/transliterators. I would like to make it to all seven regions by the end of the school year. It has been a great opportunity to meet the interpreters/transliterators and talk about the legislation and what is required to show that they meet the minimum standard. For sign language interpreters/transliterators, they need to have one of the following qualifications: 1) RID Certification 2) NAD Certification, level III or higher 3) Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA) score of 3.5 or higher. Oral transliterators can show that they meet the minimum standard by having the Oral Transliteration Certificate (OTC) by RID. Cued language transliterators can show that they meet the minimum standard for Idaho by passing the evaluation as set forth by the TECUnit (Testing, Evaluation and Certification Unit).

The EIPA is offered by Local Test Administrators (LTA's) in Idaho. I am one of the LTA's and will offer the EIPA this March in North Idaho. I have five testing slots that will be offered in July and five testing slots for September. The July and September testing will take place in Boise. This assessment is rated by Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH) and due to the number of states using the EIPA as a minimum standard BTNRH has had to limit how many slots are offered each year.

ISDB provided a videoconference on January 19th for educational interpreters that was put on by Frances Beaurivage from Boys Town National Research Hospital. The topic of the videoconference was "The Role and Importance of Finger spelling in the K-12 Setting" and was broadcast to three different sites in Idaho. The training was offered free of charge and there were over 50 interpreters who took advantage of this opportunity.

I am impressed by the commitment of ISDB Administration to support working

educational interpreters and I am excited and honored to be a part of this effort. I look forward to the coming years and continuing to improve the quality of educational services provided to students who are deaf and hard of hearing in the state of Idaho.

Joelynn B. Warr
Educational Interpreter Training Coordinator/ISDB
joelynn.warr@isdb.idaho.gov

CDHH Priorities

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing sets priorities for the remainder of the year.

The Council has selected the following priorities for the remainder of the year.

- 1) Interpreter funding for Steven Snow, Executive Director.
 - a. Create job description
- 2) Continue with Deaf Education Reform.
 - a. Continue working with Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind.
 - b. Continue working with Idaho State Board of Education.
 - c. Continue working with Idaho State Department of Education.
- 3) Outreach to other agencies.
 - a. Interpreter Directory reform
 - b. Actively outreach to agencies for suggestions and possibilities.

If you have any suggestions, ideas or comments about the Council's priorities, please feel free to contact the Council at (208) 334-0879. (vp/v)

Council Activities

During the last several months the Council has been very busy offering outreach and information about deaf and hard of hearing issues. The following is a summary of the major activities which the Council has been involved since July of 2007.

- 1) Several outreach presentations including Boise Good Samaritan Home, Eagle Manor, Chateau Village, Boise Senior Center Health Fair, and Meridian Senior Center where equipment and information was demonstrated for senior citizens and residents of the complexes.
 - 2) Provided equipment including Amplified telephones, TTY telephones, alerting devices and personal amplification devices to several clients throughout the state through our subsidy program administered by United Cerebral Palsy.
 - 3) Collaborating with other government agencies to provide information about deaf and hard of hearing services.
 - 4) Collaborating with Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind on deaf education issues.
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- 5) Report presented to the Governor's office about the Council including mission statement, budget, why the Council was formed, issues the Council addresses, legislative activities, etc.
- 6) The Council was invited by the Office of Homeland Security to participate in the Emergency Preparedness Program to provide advice and information about the needs of Idaho's deaf and hard of hearing community in case of an emergency. This is an ongoing committee in which the Council will be participating.
- 7) Working with State legislators on the need of acquiring a budget to create a full-time position that would provide interpreting and office support for CDHH.
- 8) The Council was invited to serve on the Court Interpreter Subcommittee to discuss policies/issues with court interpreters.

Legislative Update

Executive Director, Steven Snow, attended a Legislative reception on Thursday, January 24, 2008 sponsored by the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, Center on Disabilities and Human Development, Idaho Self Advocate Leadership Network and Comprehensive Advocacy, Inc.

Steven was able to meet and talk to key Legislators about issues concerning the Council including accessing an interpreter, changes at Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind and creating a deaf center.

During the reception, Representative Tom Trail (R), Moscow, a member of House Education Committee invited Steven to give a presentation before the Committee on the topic of ISDB. The presentation date is set for March 6th at 9:00 am in Capitol Annex meeting room #148. The meeting is open to public.

CDHH is also involved with the legislative process of setting budget for Fiscal Year 2009. During the process, Steven Snow is working very closely with several legislators from Jointed Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) to increase public awareness of ADA law requiring the state government to provide funding for interpreting needs of the council.

Do you Need Help Hearing on the Phone?



If you are having difficulties understanding a telephone conversation, we can help. Please visit one of our demonstration and loan centers throughout the state and borrow an amplified telephone. Take it home, use it, and talk with your friends and family. Then you may be able to purchase the phone through one of our centers. And you will probably qualify for a grant to

help you with the purchase price! If you need more information, please contact our office.

Council Seeks Nominations for Vacancies

Call for Nominations for Two More Board Members

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a state agency serving persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Established in 1991, the Council is governed by a nine-member Council. An Executive Director administers all programs and daily operations. The Council's goal is to improve the quality of life for Idaho's residents who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing information, serving as an advocate and increasing services and access.

Chapter 73, Title 67 of the Idaho State Code outlines the following responsibilities of the Council:

- Increase access to employment, education and social opportunities.
- Increase awareness of the needs of the deaf and the hard of hearing through educational informational programs.
- Encourage consultation and cooperation among agencies, departments and institutions.
- Determine the extent and availability of services for the deaf and hard of hearing and the need for services. Make recommendations for change.
- Coordinate, advocate for and recommend the development of policies and programs that provide full access for the deaf and the hard of hearing.
- Monitor consumer protection.

The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. They have terms of three years, and every year there are three members whose terms expire. Article II, Section 3 of the Council's by-law requires the Council to advertise nominations for new Council members.

The positions that is up for appointment for a three year term ending June 2010 is:

- *A physician*
- *A parent of a child who is hard of hearing*

The position of Council member is one of leadership and includes the power to establish policy and govern. Such leadership implies the acceptance of a high commitment to work for the broad purposes and the objectives of the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. A council member's wisdom, counsel, and support are vital to the success to the mission of the Council.

Responsibilities

1. Give special knowledge and skills individually and through committee efforts to pursue established goals.
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2. Serve on committees, as needed, in the area of interest and expertise.
3. Attend regularly scheduled quarterly meetings or notify Executive Director or Chairperson of non-attendance.
4. Provide constructive guidance and advice to the Council, its officers, and the Executive Director on all matters affecting the best interest of the Council's programs, financial stability, and governing procedures.
5. Review and approve an annual budget.
6. Represent the Council to the member's constituency and the public.
7. Keep the Council informed about activities of the organization or constituency the member represents and make sure that the Council is aware of problems being encountered by the member's constituency or organization.
8. Serve as an advocate for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Advocate for improving communication access, for identifying of children with hearing loss and for an increase in services to assist people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
9. Serve as a resource in the community for issues faced by people in the community who are deaf or hard of hearing and for providing information on accommodations and auxiliary services that can improve communication access.

The Council meets four times annually. The Council pays for travel, lodging and meal expenses.

Would you like to be a Council board member?

Click here to Download an application:

http://cdhh.idaho.gov/documents/council_membership_application.pdf

Upcoming Local Events

For full event details, visit our Web site's [Upcoming Events](#) page.

CDHH Meetings

05-09-08: CDHH Board Meeting

Social Events

3-07-08: Deaf Center Idaho Chili Cook-off

Ongoing: Deaf Center Idaho Walk and Chat at Boise Towne Square Mall

Training Events

3-12-08: Registration Deadline for NAD Leadership Training Conference

3-15-08: Spatial Organization – EIPA Video Conference 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Boise and

Pocatello

4-03-08: NAD Leadership Conference, Austin, Texas

5-01-08: Deadline for ISDB Foundation Scholarship

Upcoming National Event

Biennial National Association for the Deaf Conference
New Orleans

*LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL AND
TOGETHER WE MOVE FORWARD*

Let The Good Times Roll and Together We Move Forward are the official themes of the National Association of the Deaf's conference.



NAD President Bobbie Beth Scoggins has officially issued a Call to the Conference. The 49th Biennial NAD Conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana, July 7-11, 2008.

For more information and to register, click on the banner below.

